

Trails and Greenways

A VISION FOR THE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY





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February 2003

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BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY

National Heritage Corridor Commission



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission was established by Congress in 1986 to preserve, protect and interpret the historical, natural, recreational and cultural resources of the Blackstone River Valley. This Valley, is the heart of the American Industrial Revolution, where America's migration from farms to factories began with Samuel Slater's "Slater Mill" in Pawtucket, RI.

This bi-state region, consisting of twenty four communities, was studied by Commission staff, to determine the potential for additional regional trail/greenway opportunities.

In a series of regional public meetings, held in the spring of 2002, citizens were invited to express their interest in, and ideas about, new trail and greenway opportunities.

For the purposes of prioritizing projects in this study, the study area was divided into three sub-regions: North, Central and South.

To develop sub-regional priorities, the study analyzed the input gathered from the public meetings as well as additional information gathered by Commission staff. Priorities were determined based upon the following criteria: level of community support, regional aspect of project, recreational and historical significance and ability to connect existing recreational or heritage infrastructure.

Priorities were identified and recommendations made regarding the development of eighteen proposed trail/greenway opportunities (Vision Map).

Trail & Greenway Development Priorities

Overall, the first priority for the National Heritage Corridor is to complete the Blackstone River Bikeway from Worcester to Providence. The second priority is to continue to support the development and extension of the Southern New England Trunkline Trail toward the Franklin State Forest and Willimantic, CT. The remaining trail/greenway opportunities are prioritized by sub-region.

North Sub-region:

(Leicester, Worcester, Millbury, Grafton, Upton, Sutton, Northbridge)

Priority #

1. Lake Manchaug Greenway & Wildlife Corridor (trail # 10 on map 3)
2. Blackstone Broad Meadow Brook Trail (Sagatabscot Ridge) (trail # 3 on map 1)
3. Middle River Park and Greenway (trail # 4 on map 1)
4. Grafton Loop Trail (trail # 5 on map 2)
5. Grafton & Upton Rail Trail (trail # 6 on map 2)
6. Tetasset-East Side Trail Connector (trail # 2 on map 1)
7. Millbury Branch Rail Trail (trail # 8 on map 1)

8. Mumford River Walk Extension (trail # 11 on map 3)
9. Midstate-Worcester Connector Trail (trail # 1 on map 1)
10. Dearing Estate Trailhead Access Project (trail # 9 on map 1)

Central Sub-region:

(Douglas, Uxbridge, Hopedale, Mendon, Millville, Blackstone, Woonsocket)

Priority #

1. Grand Trunk Rail Trail (trail # 12 on map 3&4)
2. Lookout Rock-G&U Rail Trail Connector (trail # 7 on map 2&3)
3. Daniels Farm Trail (trail # 18 on map 4)
4. Drumlin Trail (trail # 17 on map 4)

South Sub-region:

(Burrillville, Glocester, North Smithfield, Smithfield, Cumberland, Lincoln, Central Falls, Pawtucket)

Priority #

1. Woonasquatucket River / Northwest Bikeway (trail # 13 on map 5)
2. Louisquisett Trolley Line Trail (trail # 14 on map 5&6)
3. Warner Trail Extension (trail # 16 on map 6)
4. Blackstone River Bikeway / I-295 Connector Trail (trail # 15 on map 6)

The information contained in this report describes the process by which each trail/greenway opportunity was identified, specifically describes and prioritizes each opportunity and recommends actions to accomplish the development of each proposed project.

This document will be used in determining future Commission investment in trail & greenway projects. In addition, this report will be distributed to federal, state, and local partnership organizations for guidance on related projects.

Blackstone River Valley Trail / Greenway Vision



Blackstone River Bikeway

Proposed Trail / Greenway

Midstate / North-South Trail

Southern New England Trunkline Trail



Introduction

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor was established by Congress in 1986 to preserve, protect and interpret the historical, natural, recreational and cultural resources of the Blackstone River Valley. The Blackstone River Valley is the heart of the American Industrial Revolution, where America's migration from farms to factories began with Samuel Slater's "Slater Mill" in Pawtucket, RI.

Since 1986, directed by a revised "Ten Year Plan", the National Heritage Corridor has attempted to connect communities with a regional trail system within the Blackstone Valley. It is these connections which foster interest in neighboring communities, historic and natural resources and encourages a sense of community.

What is a Greenway?

A greenway is a corridor of linear open space. Greenways vary in scale from narrow ribbons to a wide corridor with diverse ecological and scenic features. They may follow natural areas such as stream, shorelines or ridgelines or railways or utility lines. Greenways serve many valuable functions. They may function almost exclusively for environmental protection – water quality or flood control protection - or may be designed to create recreational opportunities and non-modernized transportation options to key destinations in a region. Some greenways along river corridors provide access to navigable waters or Blueways. Greenways can incorporate both public and private land. For more information on trails and greenways throughout the United States, review some of the websites located in Appendix D.

Benefits of Trails/Greenways include:

- provide protection to fragile natural systems and sensitive areas,
- enhance the alternate transportation options for residents to key destination and attractions,
- coordinate transportation and land use development,
- increase recreational and healthy lifestyle options, and provide economic enhancement options to both urban and rural areas.

The National Heritage Corridor undertook this Valley-wide trail / greenway planning effort to determine the extent of existing trails and to determine the feasibility of connecting communities and their residents to the Valley's natural, cultural and historic resources via regional trail connections. Despite the fact that the Blackstone Valley is surrounded by the three largest cities in New England and faces ever increasing development pressure, the opportunity to connect communities through trails and greenways still exists. This project identified a number of trails that could link communities to each other and to their underutilized natural resources.

The backbone of the Valley's trail system is the Blackstone River and the Blackstone River Bikeway. This forty six-mile bikeway will eventually extend from Providence, RI to Worcester, MA.

The following report outlines the methodology used to collect public input, the proposed trails for Valley communities and additional information to assist municipalities with making these trails become a reality.

HISTORY

In 1790 Samuel Slater began production at the first water powered cotton-textile factory on the Blackstone River in what is today the City of Pawtucket, RI. After almost two centuries of obscurity, the story of the Birth of the American Industrial Revolution, of America's "hardest working river" that powered that revolution, and the communities of the Blackstone Valley where the revolution took root and spread across the nation, is being told.

Spurred by local recognition of the story's importance, and the value of preserving and interpreting the Valley's historic and natural resources, Congress created the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (later renamed to honor the late RI Senator John H. Chafee) as an ambitious experiment in 1986. Ten years later, the experiment was declared a success when Congress voted to extend the life of the Corridor and its governing Commission for a second ten years and expand the Corridor from twenty to twenty four communities.

One of the core commitments outlined in the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan is "River Recovery and Recreational Development". It is this commitment which calls for the completion or enhancement of state and local parks and forests, trail development along the Blackstone Canal and towpath, development of the Blackstone River Bikeway, as well as the establishment of connections through the development of trails and intermodal transportation services. In addition to these commitments the National Park Service through the National Heritage Corridor promotes the development of the trails outlined in this report.

This document outlines the aforementioned trails and provides guidance for future trail and greenway development within the Blackstone River Valley.

Methodology

Promoting The Planning Effort

The National Heritage Corridor trail & greenway planning effort began in March of 2002 with the development of a web site (www.graftonland.org/bv). This web site along with a listserve played a significant role in facilitating communication among the over one hundred subscribers. These two media allowed subscribers to receive the public meeting schedule, periodic updates on related events as well as beginning a dialogue among trail and greenway supporters.

In addition, press releases were sent out to approximately 12 media outlets for each regional public meeting. An announcement or a story, was published in a few papers throughout the Blackstone Valley.

Base Map Development

Using publicly available data, a consultant developed orthophoto-based maps for each town, which illustrated several features including open space and any formal trail systems within the town.

Regional Public Meetings

Beginning April 24, 2002 a series of five regional public meetings were scheduled and conducted throughout the National Heritage Corridor (table 1).

Table 1 Schedule of regional public meetings.

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	TOWNS
*April 24, 2002	Glocester Town Hall	6-8:30pm	Burrillville, Glocester & Smithfield
May 1, 2002	Northgate in Lincoln	6-8:30pm	Cumberland, Lincoln, Central Falls, Pawtucket
May 15, 2002	Millbury Senior Center	6-8:30pm	Leicester, Worcester, Millbury, Grafton, Upton
May 29, 2002	Northbridge Town Hall	6-8:30pm	Sutton, Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge, Mendon, Hopedale
June 5, 2002	Woonsocket City Hall	6-8:30pm	N. Smithfield, Woonsocket, Millville, Blackstone

*This meeting was cancelled; however, information was gathered from individual meetings with the town planners from each of these towns as well as from various trail user groups in the area.

Each regional public meeting was held from 6-8:30pm. The meetings began with brief introductions followed by a short presentation by a National Heritage Corridor staff person. Following the presentation a question and answer session was held followed by public input regarding trails and greenways. Public input was gathered when individuals gathered around various base maps and started to discuss and draw on the base maps. Public input including new trail and greenway ideas along with some written comments were gathered.

Analyzing Public Input

Email comments, written comments and the base maps were analyzed and sent back to the consultant who updated the maps with the proposed trail and greenway ideas.

Due to the large number of proposed trails, a smaller list was selected for investigation. This selection process was based upon the following three criteria:

- level of community support
- significance of community connections
- physical feasibility and suitability

Results

Due to the large number of proposed trails and greenway projects, the following eighteen trails along with the Blackstone River Bikeway and Southern New England Trunkline Trail were considered (table 2) (maps 1-6,).

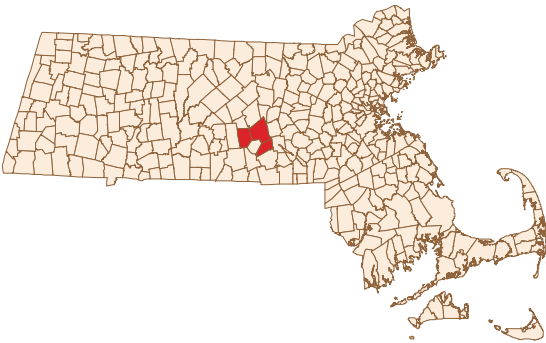
Table 2 Descriptive summary of proposed trails.

Trail Name	Length	# of affected private stakeholders*	Town(s)
• Blackstone River Bikeway	48.0m	21	Providence to Worcester
• Southern New England Trunk Line Trail	22.0m	0	Douglas, Uxbridge, Millville, Blackstone, Bellingham, Franklin
1. Mid State-Worcester Connector Trail	7.0m	7	Worcester, Leicester
2. Tetasset-East Side Trail Connector	7.5m	4	Worcester
3. Blackstone Broad Meadow Brook Trail (Sagatabscot Ridge)	0.8m	5	Worcester
4. Middle River Park & Greenway	3.0m	0	Worcester
5. Grafton Loop Trail	23.0m	14	Grafton
6. Grafton and Upton Rail Trail	15.5m	1	Grafton/Upton/Hopedale
7. Lookout Rock-G&U Rail Trail Connector	2.0m	4	Uxbridge, Upton, Northbridge
8. Millbury Branch Rail Trail	2.1m	1	Millbury
9. Dearing Estate Trailhead Access Project	0.2m	1	Millbury, Grafton
10. Lake Manchaug Greenway and Wildlife Corridor	6.0m	5	Sutton, Douglas
11. Mumford River Walk Extension	2.0m	5	Northbridge, Uxbridge
12. Grand Trunk Rail Trail	12.0m	23	Douglas, Uxbridge, Millville, Blackstone
13. Woonasquatucket River/Northwest Bikeway	26.0m	11	North Smithfield, Smithfield, Burrillville
14. Louisquiset Trolley Line Trail	3.0m	3	North Smithfield
15. Blackstone River Bikeway/I-295 Connector Trail	0.5m	1	Lincoln
16. Warner Trail Extension	6.0m	6	Cumberland
17. Drumlin Trail	3.0m	4	Uxbridge
18. Daniels Farm Trail	2.0m	3	Mendon, Blackstone

* Number of private stakeholders involved varies depending on precise location of proposed trail layout.

Blackstone Valley Trail/Greenway Vision Report

October, 2002



Legend

Blackstone River Bikeway

Existing Trail

Midstate / North-South Trail

Proposed Trail

SNETT (Southern New England Trunkline Trail)

Town Boundary

Major Road

Local Road

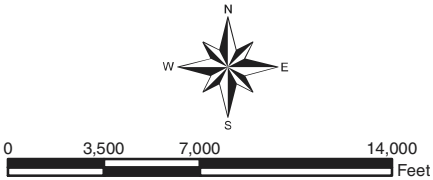
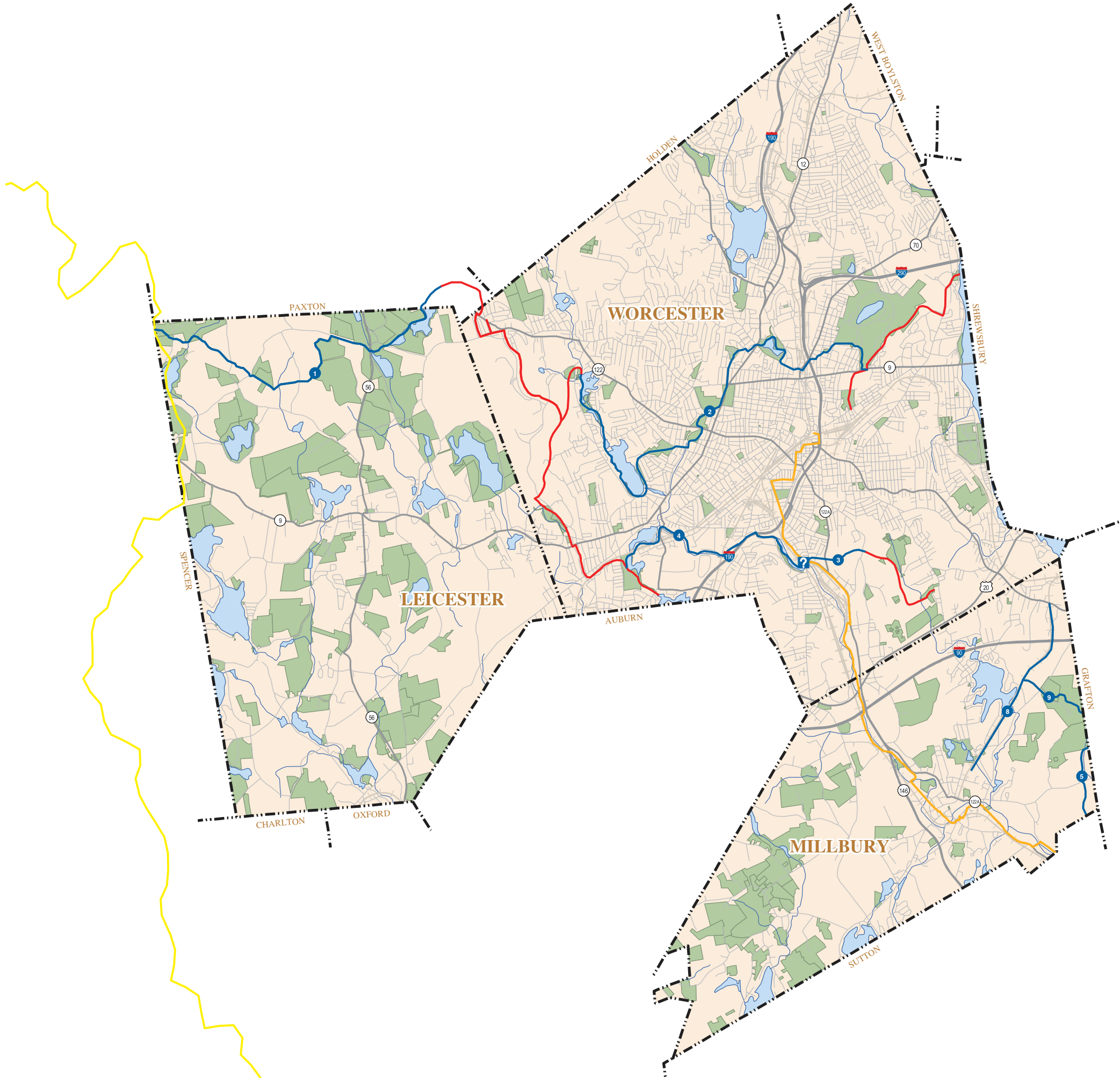
Rail Line

Water Body

Stream

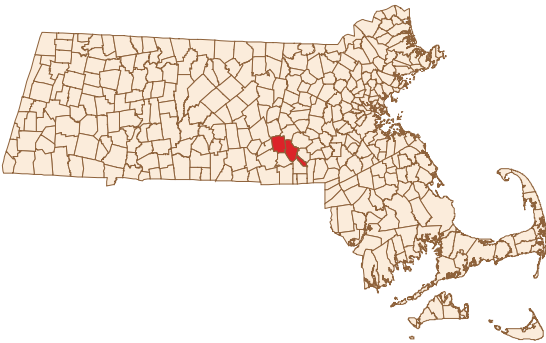
Open Space

Visitor Information Site

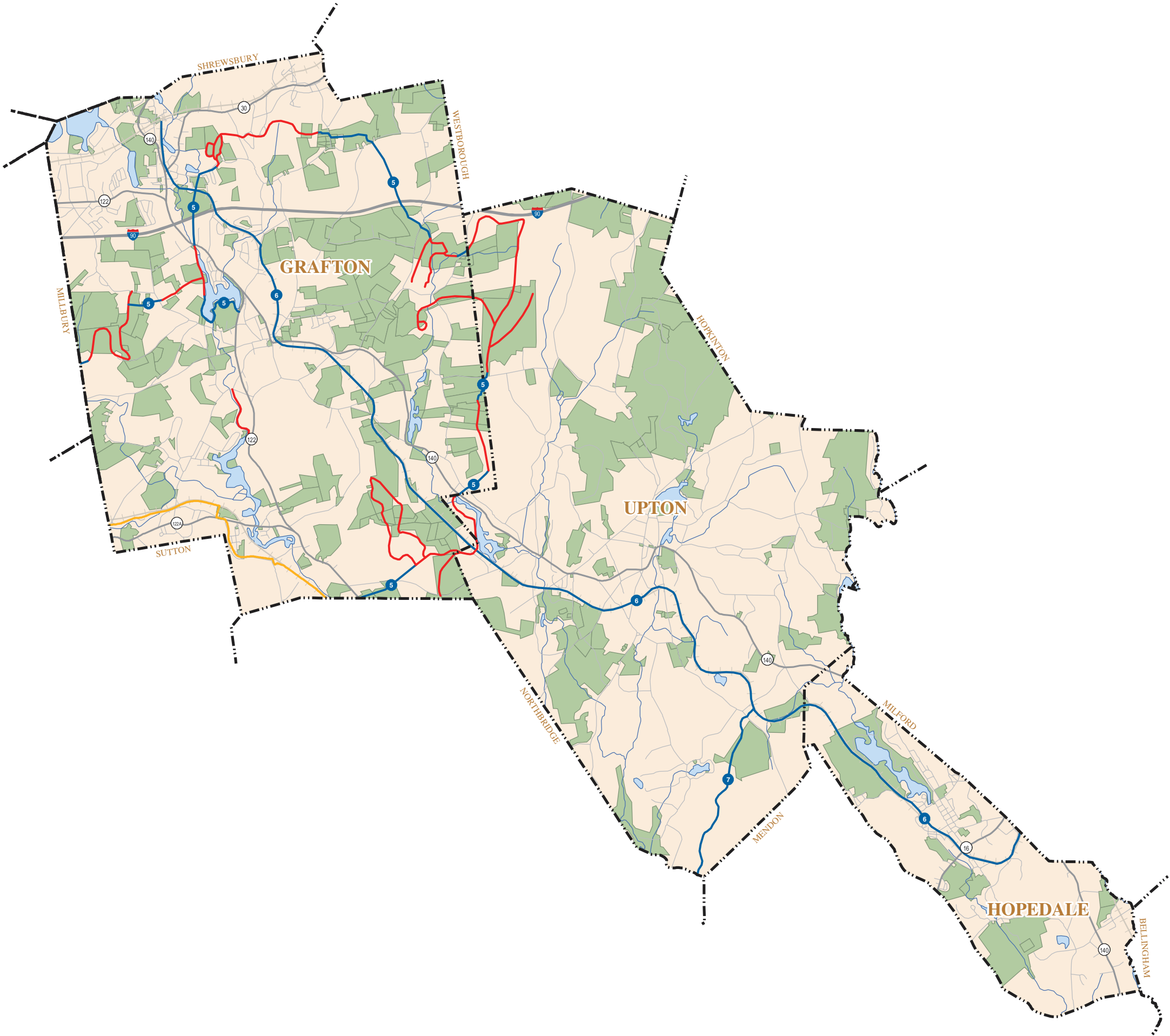
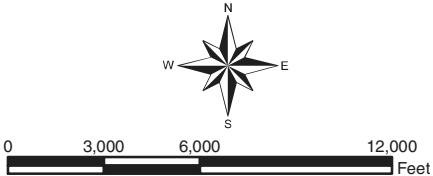


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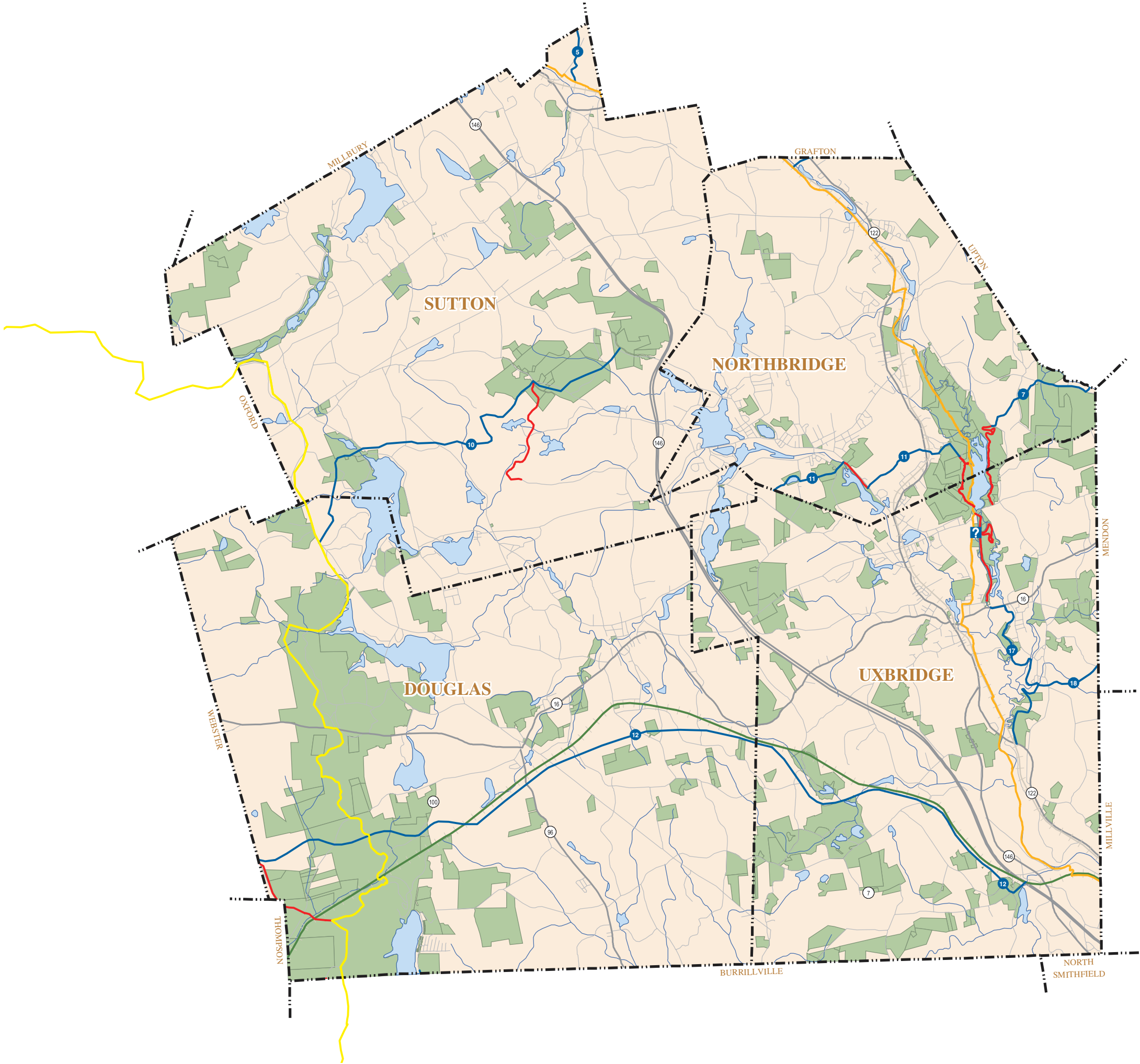
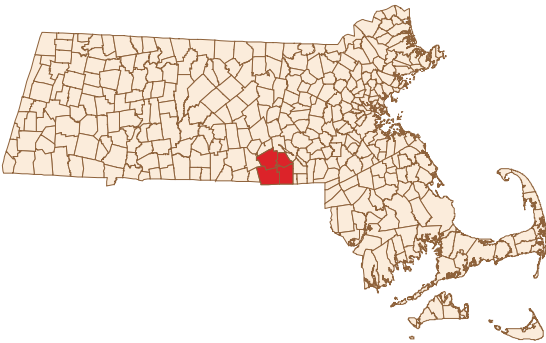


- Legend**
- Blackstone River Bikeway
 - Existing Trail
 - Midstate / North-South Trail
 - Proposed Trail
 - SNETT (Southern New England Trunkline Trail)
 - Town Boundary
 - Major Road
 - Local Road
 - Rail Line
 - Water Body
 - Stream
 - Open Space
 - Visitor Information Site

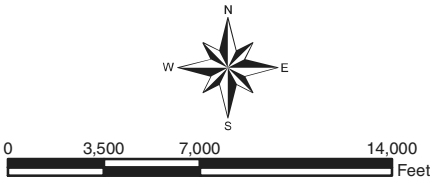


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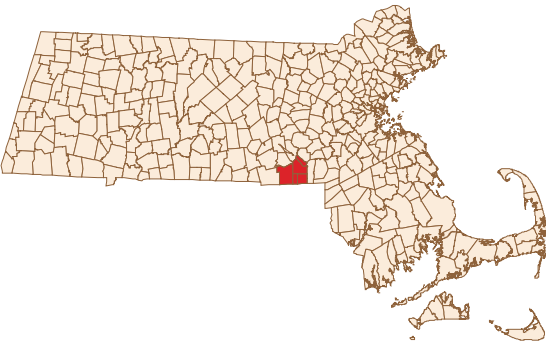


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 - Open Space
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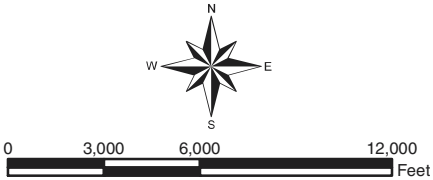
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October, 2002



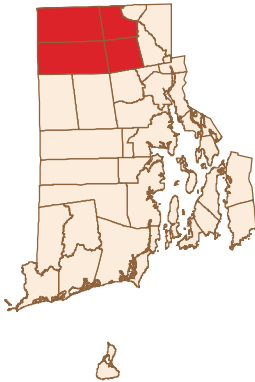
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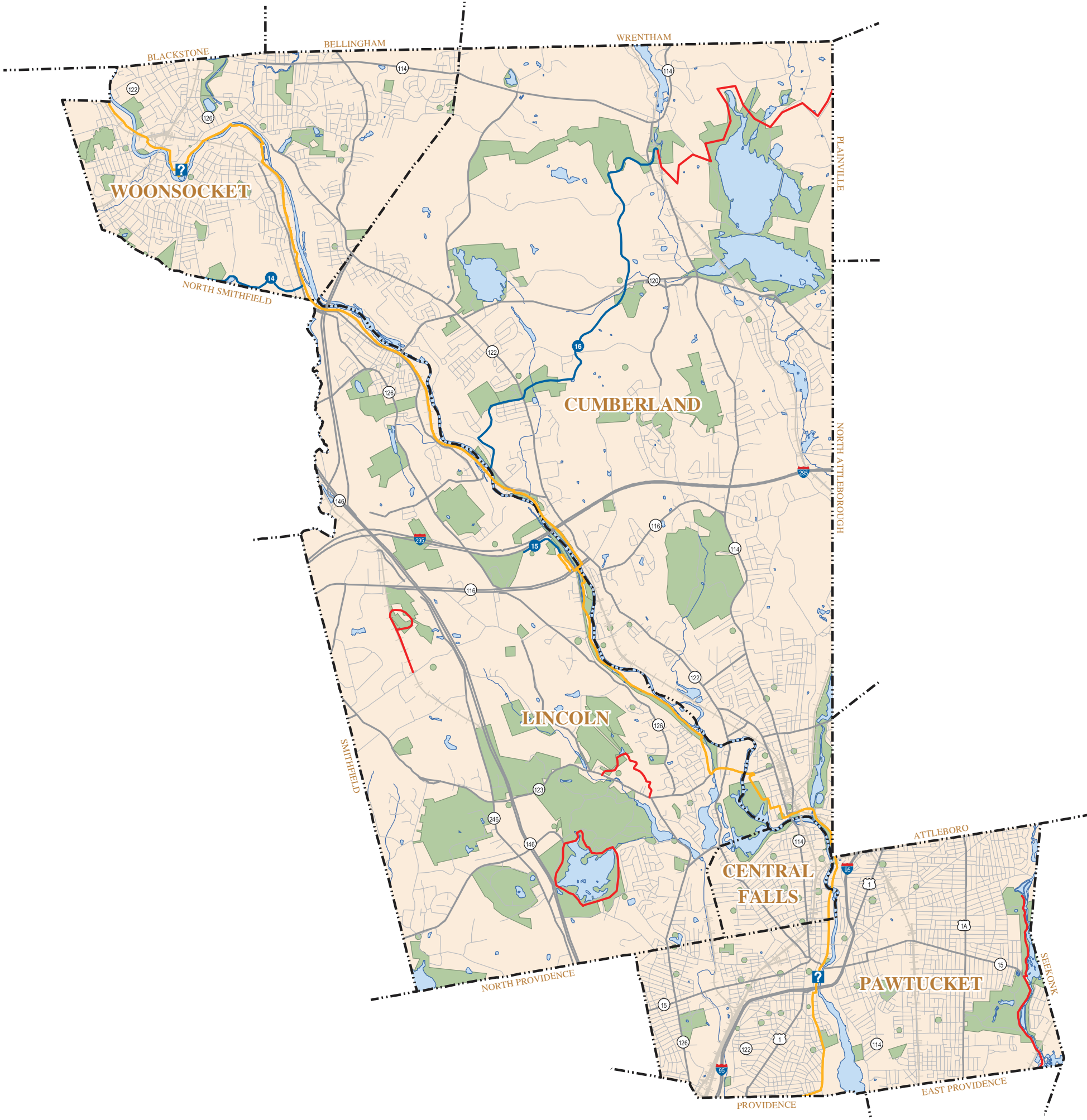
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October, 2002



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 - Major Road
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 - Water Body
 - Stream
 - Open Space
 - Visitor Information Site

The communities within the Blackstone River Valley, being surrounded by New England's three largest cities, have, and will continue to receive development pressure. Despite this pressure, a number of communities have a significant percentage of their total land base classified as open space (table 3). These communities have the opportunity to enhance their communities' trail and greenway systems, such that future generations will be able to recreate the way citizens do today.

Table 3 Land base statistics for specific towns within the Blackstone River Valley.

Municipality	Total Land Base (Ac.)	Amount of Open Space (Ac.)*	# of open space parcels	Percentage of Total Land Base
Blackstone, MA	7,187	761	28	10.6%
Burrillville, RI	35,561	7,538	49	21.2%
Cumberland, RI	17,147	4,488	62	26.2%
Central Falls, RI	774	39	15	5.0%
Douglas, MA	24,134	6,295	124	26.1%
Glocester, RI	35,084	13,931	55	39.7%
Grafton, MA	14,933	4,634	224	32.0%
Hopedale, MA	3,405	782	13	23.0%
Leicester, MA	15,795	4,481	124	28.3%
Lincoln, RI	11,665	4,799	71	41.0%
Mendon, MA	11,686	2,685	108	23.0%
Millbury, MA	10,400	1,884	65	18.1%
Millville, MA	3,200	427	19	13.3%
Northbridge, MA	11,558	1,953	66	16.9%
North Smithfield, RI	15,384	2,461	35	16.0%
Pawtucket, RI	5,591	427	39	7.6%
Smithfield, RI	17,015	1,785	51	10.5%
Sutton, MA	21,715	2,468	57	11.4%
Upton, MA	13,907	4,252	95	30.6%
Uxbridge, MA	19,443	3,974	164	20.4%
Woonsocket, RI	4,932	323	29	6.5%
Worcester, MA	24,678	1,599	118	6.5%

*Does not necessarily represent permanently protected open space.

Trail & Greenway Sub-region Development Priorities

Overall, the first priority for the National Heritage Corridor is to complete the Blackstone River Bikeway from Worcester to Providence. The second priority is to continue to support the development and extension of the Southern New England Trunkline Trail toward the Franklin State Forest and Willimantic, CT. The remaining trail/greenway opportunities are prioritized by sub-region.

North Sub-region:

(Leicester, Worcester, Millbury, Grafton, Upton, Sutton, Northbridge)

Priority #

11. Lake Manchaug Greenway & Wildlife Corridor (trail # 10 on map 3)
12. Blackstone Broad Meadow Brook Trail (Sagatabscot Ridge) (trail # 3 on map 1)
13. Middle River Park and Greenway (trail # 4 on map 1)
14. Grafton Loop Trail (trail # 5 on map 2)
15. Grafton & Upton Rail Trail (trail # 6 on map 2)
16. Tetasset-East Side Trail Connector (trail # 2 on map 1)
17. Millbury Branch Rail Trail (trail # 8 on map 1)
18. Mumford River Walk Extension (trail # 11 on map 3)
19. Midstate-Worcester Connector Trail (trail # 1 on map 1)
20. Dearing Estate Trailhead Access Project (trail # 9 on map 1)

Central Sub-region:

(Douglas, Uxbridge, Hopedale, Mendon, Millville, Blackstone, Woonsocket)

Priority #

5. Grand Trunk Rail Trail (trail # 12 on map 3&4)
6. Lookout Rock-G&U Rail Trail Connector (trail # 7 on map 2&3)
7. Daniels Farm Trail (trail # 18 on map 4)
8. Drumlin Trail (trail # 17 on map 4)

South Sub-region:

(Burrillville, Gloucester, North Smithfield, Smithfield, Cumberland, Lincoln, Central Falls, Pawtucket)

Priority #

5. Woonasquatucket River / Northwest Bikeway (trail # 13 on map 5)
6. Louisissett Trolley Line Trail (trail # 14 on map 5&6)
7. Warner Trail Extension (trail # 16 on map 6)
8. Blackstone River Bikeway / I-295 Connector Trail (trail # 15 on map 6)

Blackstone River Bikeway

The Blackstone River Bikeway is a forty-eight mile bikeway extending from Union Station in Worcester, MA to the Narragansett Bay in Providence, RI. The Bikeway in Massachusetts follows the Blackstone River through the towns of Worcester, Millbury, Sutton, Grafton, Northbridge, Uxbridge, Millville and Blackstone (table 4). This bikeway consists of, on and off-road segments, and has been designated an official section of the East Coast Greenway, a 2,600 mile bikeway from Florida to Maine.

The Blackstone River Bikeway will be the first facility of its kind to connect Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Both state Departments of Transportation (RI DOT & MHD) and Environmental Management (RI DEM & MA DEM) have worked hard to move this ambitious bikeway project forward. The anticipated completion date for this 48-mile, multi-million dollar bikeway project is 2012. The nineteen miles of bikeway in RI are scheduled for completion in 2004.

The breakdown of bikeway mileage by state, town and ownership is shown in table 4. Currently, RI has constructed approximately seven miles of bikeway within the Towns of Cumberland and Lincoln (figure 1). In addition, the remaining segments to be constructed are in some stage of design. Massachusetts has approximately one mile of bikeway constructed on the Millbury/Worcester line within the Rt. 146/I-90 construction project (figure 2). In addition, 25% design has been reached on a three-mile segment in Millville and Uxbridge.

Additional bikeway photos can be found in Appendix A.



Figure 1 Blackstone River Bikeway,
Lincoln, RI



Figure 2 Blackstone River Bikeway, Rt.
146/I-90 project, Millbury, MA

Table 4 Breakdown of bikeway mileage by State, Municipality and current ownership.*

Municipality	# of Bikeway Miles	% on Private Property	% on Public Property**	% on P&W Railroad Property***	Estimated Design Start	Estimated Construction Start
Massachusetts						
Blackstone, MA	2.0	0%	100%	0%	TBD	TBD
Grafton, MA	3.0	13.3% or (0.4m)	43.4% or (1.3m)	43.3% or (1.3m)	TBD	TBD
Millbury, MA	3.5	17.1% or (0.6m)	71.5% or (2.5m)	11.4% or (0.4m)	2003	2004
Millville, MA	1.5	0%	100%	0%	2002	2004
Northbridge, MA	5.5	18% or (1.0m)	54.8% or (3.0m)	27.2% or (1.5m)	TBD	TBD
Sutton, MA	1.0	30.0% or (0.3m)	70.0% or (0.7m)	0%	2003	2004
Uxbridge, MA	6.5	30.8% or (2.0m)	58.4% or (3.8m)	10.8% or (0.7m)	2002	2004
Worcester, MA	5.5	0%	100%	0%	2001	2002
<i>MA Total:</i>	<i>28.5</i>	<i>15.1% or (4.3m)</i>	<i>71% or (20.3m)</i>	<i>13.9% or (3.9m)</i>		
Rhode Island						
Central Falls, RI	0.4	0%	100%	0%		
Cumberland, RI	3.5	0%	100%	0%	Completed	Completed
Lincoln, RI	5.5	0%	100%	0%	Completed	Completed
N. Smithfield, RI	0.1	0%	100%	0%	@ 10%	2004
Pawtucket, RI	2.7	0%	100%	0%	@10%	2004
Providence, RI	3.2	25% or (0.8m)	75% or (2.4m)	0%	TBD	2004
Woonsocket, RI	4.0	10% or (0.4m)	90% or (3.6m)	0%	@10%	2004
<i>RI Total:</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>6.2% or (1.2m)</i>	<i>93.8% or (18.2m)</i>	<i>0%</i>		
GRAND TOTALS	47.9	11.5% or (5.5m)	80.4% or (38.5m)	8.1% or (3.9m)		

*Based upon the preferred alignment as outlined in the 1996 MHD & MA DEM feasibility study.

**Includes Federal, State, or Municipal land as well as utility property as of November 2002.

***In RI, a portion of the bikeway alignment is within the P&W ROW, however, an agreement has the alignment in public ownership.

Southern New England Trunkline Trail

Acquired by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (MA DEM) in 1984, and designated a National Recreation Trail in 1994, the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT) is approximately 22 miles in length and passes through six communities: Douglas, Uxbridge, Millville, Blackstone, Bellingham and Franklin. Formerly known as the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad when last in operation in 1964, this rail-bed also extends into Connecticut for 25 miles to the town of Willimantic. The section in Connecticut is owned and managed by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. The trail is presently undeveloped and is a simple gravel/stone dust path (figures 3 & 4).



Figures 3 & 4 (above) Franklin State Forest trailhead, (right) Existing conditions of the SNETT.

Ultimately, the vision for this trail is that it be restored to a condition that would allow users to travel from Connecticut to the Franklin State Forest. In addition, when redeveloped the trail should attempt to accommodate all forms of non-motorized recreation. The SNETT is a double-tracked rail-bed and would therefore accommodate a Class I bikeway and parallel naturally-surfaced path.

Description of Proposed Trails

Worcester, Millbury, Leicester (map 1)

Worcester, MA, the Commonwealth's second largest city (24,678 ac.) and New England's third largest, is an extremely urban environment. According to Smart Growth America, Worcester County is the 25th most sprawling region in the country according to their "sprawl index" of 83 metropolitan areas. Despite this fact, the City of Worcester currently has 1,599 acres of open space, numerous recreational trails and many opportunities to develop additional trails.

Millbury, MA is approximately 10,400 acres in size with 1,884 acres of open space. Currently some trails exist but very few formal trails have been developed. Millbury has an active ad hoc Open Space Committee. This committee is actively trying to develop various trail projects in an attempt to promote health, recreation and alternative modes of transportation.

Leicester, MA. has the second highest amount of open space of all Blackstone Valley municipalities. The town of Leicester is steeped in history and played a critical role in the American Industrial Revolution. Leicester has maintained its rural character in many ways. One way, in which Leicester has accomplished this, is by preserving open space and allowing community members and visitors to learn about their town on foot or by bicycle. Many trails exist within Leicester with the possibility of many more.

Vision

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor recommends and supports the development of the following trails that are, in whole or in part, within Worcester, Millbury and Leicester, MA (map 1).

1. Midstate - Worcester Connector Trail
2. Tetasset – East Side Trail Connector
3. Blackstone Broad Meadow Brook Trail (Sagatabscot Ridge)
4. Middle River Park & Greenway
8. Millbury Branch Rail Trail
9. Dearing Estate Trailhead Access Project
 - Blackstone River Bikeway (page 20)

1. Midstate – Worcester Connector Trail (map 1)

Connecting the City of Worcester to the existing Midstate trail is feasible with a proposed seven mile trail. Beginning in the Southeast corner of Paxton, MA, the trail runs south and west across the northern portion of the town of Leicester. The trail begins on Rt. 122 in southeast Paxton (the Tetasset Hills trail within Worcester connects you to Rt. 122) then traverses south into Leicester connecting to some existing "public ways" (dirt surfaced town roads). After approximately two miles the trail intersects Rt. 56. The trail then traverses through forests and open fields as it heads west across Leicester. At the 4.5 mile

mark the trail crosses under a power-line and heads in a northwest direction toward it's intersection with the Midstate Trail in the extreme northwest corner of Leicester, MA.

2. Tetasset – East Side Trail Connector (map 1)

This connector trail is approximately 7.5 miles in length and would connect the East Side Trail to the Tetasset Hills Trail. This would allow pedestrians to walk from Lake Quinsigamond to the Midstate Trail and then North into New Hampshire.

The Massachusetts Statewide Greenway Vision also identifies this trail as a priority for development. Connecting the Tetasset Hills trail with the East Side trail and extending the East Side trail north to ultimately connect with the Mass Central Rail Trail, is not only the vision of the Commonwealth's but one of the National Heritage Corridor's as well.

The State's vision states the following regarding the East Side Trail:

The East Side Trail, leads hikers past Bell Pond, a unique glacial feature, through blueberry thickets, an oak savanna, open fields, and past the shores of Lake Quinsigamond. The trail also connects places of historical significance, including the remnants of an abandoned coal mine shaft where 19th century entrepreneurs once attempted to launch a local coal producing industry.

Ultimately, the East Side Trail would connect the Mass Central Rail Trail to both the Tetasset Hills Trail and the Blackstone River Bikeway.

3. Blackstone Broad Meadow Brook Trail (Sagatabscot Ridge) (map 1)

This 0.8 mile trail begins at the proposed site of the Northern Gateway Visitor Center (also the location of the beginning of the Blackstone River) in Hurley Square (figure 5). From the proposed Visitor Center, the trail crosses Rt. 146 on a pedestrian overpass bridge (figure 6) then travels on road for approximately a block before going off-road for the remainder of its length. The trail switchbacks up a forested slope to a knoll of scrub oak with excellent views of Worcester. After 0.6 miles the trail descends to Granite St thereby connecting the proposed Northern Gateway Visitor Center to MA Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary (figure 7).



Figure 5 Photo of existing building to be used for proposed Visitor Center.



Figure 6 Illustration of the proposed Northern Gateway Visitor Center.

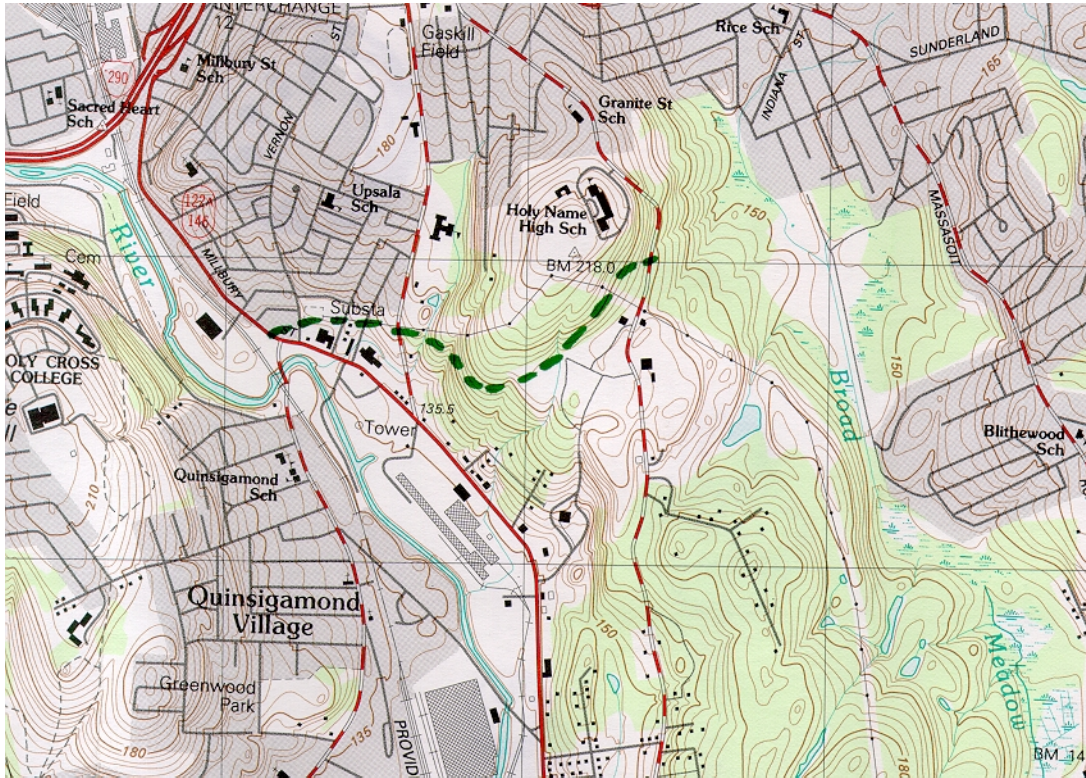


Figure 7 Location of the 0.8 mile Blackstone Broad Meadow Brook connector trail.

4. Middle River Park & Greenway (map 1)

The Middle River project is a joint project between the National Heritage Corridor, MA DEM, the City of Worcester and the Greater Worcester Land Trust.

The project area borders the proposed site of the Northern Gateway Visitor Center in Hurley Square. The trail and boardwalk would extend from the Visitor Center, north along the Middle River (figures 8,9& 10).



Figure 8 Portion of the Middle River just North of Visitor Center site.



Figure 9 The proposed Middle River boardwalk would traverse this area.

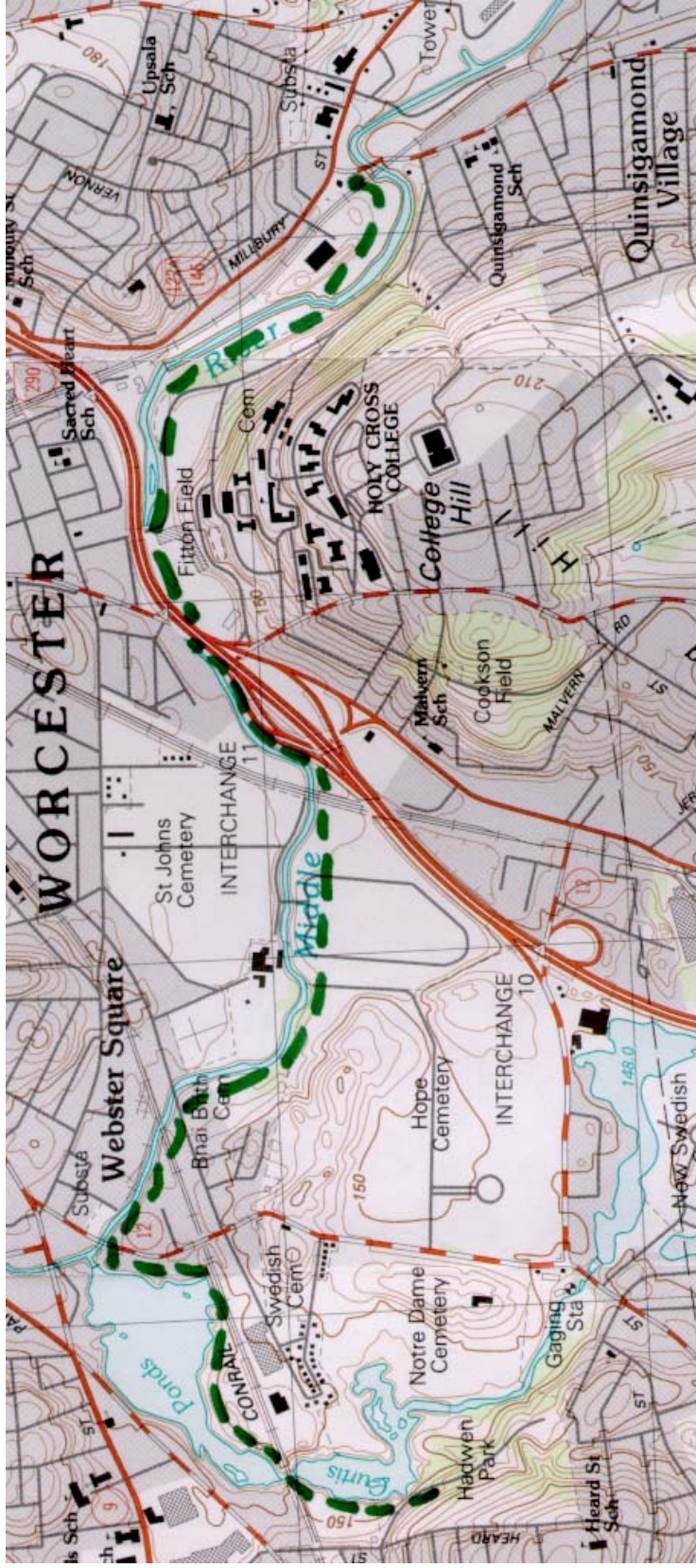


Figure 10 Location of proposed Middle River Park & Greenway, connecting Hawden Park to the Northern Gateway Visitor Center.

8. Millbury Branch Rail Trail (map 1)

The Millbury Branch Rail Trail is a vision of the citizens of Millbury. Currently, the MA Executive Office of Construction and Transportation (EOTC) owns the two-mile railroad right-of-way. The citizens of Millbury through their town government have communicated to EOTC their desire to own the abandoned right-of-way. To date, EOTC still owns the rail line and the town is awaiting a decision. Meanwhile, Millbury's adhoc Open Space Committee is working to develop a strategy for converting the rail parcel into a premier recreational trail (figure 11).

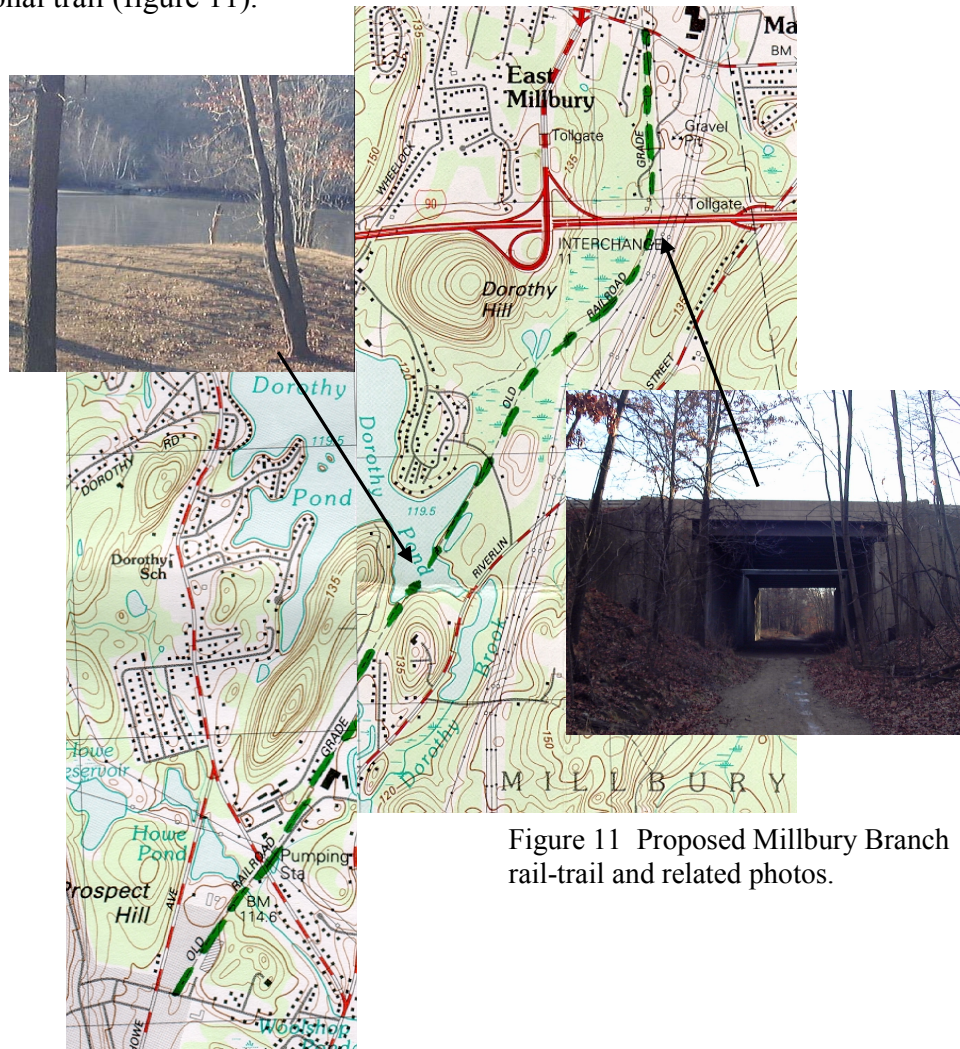


Figure 11 Proposed Millbury Branch rail-trail and related photos.

The Millbury Branch rail trail is significant because it would connect Millbury Town Center with the Blackstone River Bikeway. These two recreational resources would connect the citizens of Millbury to Town Hall, the historic Asa Waters Mansion, the Senior Center, the VFW Hall, and the bordering towns of Worcester and Sutton.

9. Dearing Estate Trailhead Access Project (map1)

The Dearing Estate is a 157 acre parcel of forested land which was deeded to the MA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in 1999. Approximately seven miles of trail are within this parcel. Currently, access is limited to a small dirt parking lot just off of Riverlin Street in Millbury, MA. The area receives a moderate to high level of use, yet only has parking for approximately 5-6 vehicles.

This trailhead access project involves expanding and improving the existing parking facility, installing pit toilets and improving some of the trails on the Estate property as well as extending the trail across Riverlin St. to connect with the Millbury Branch Rail Trail (figure 12).

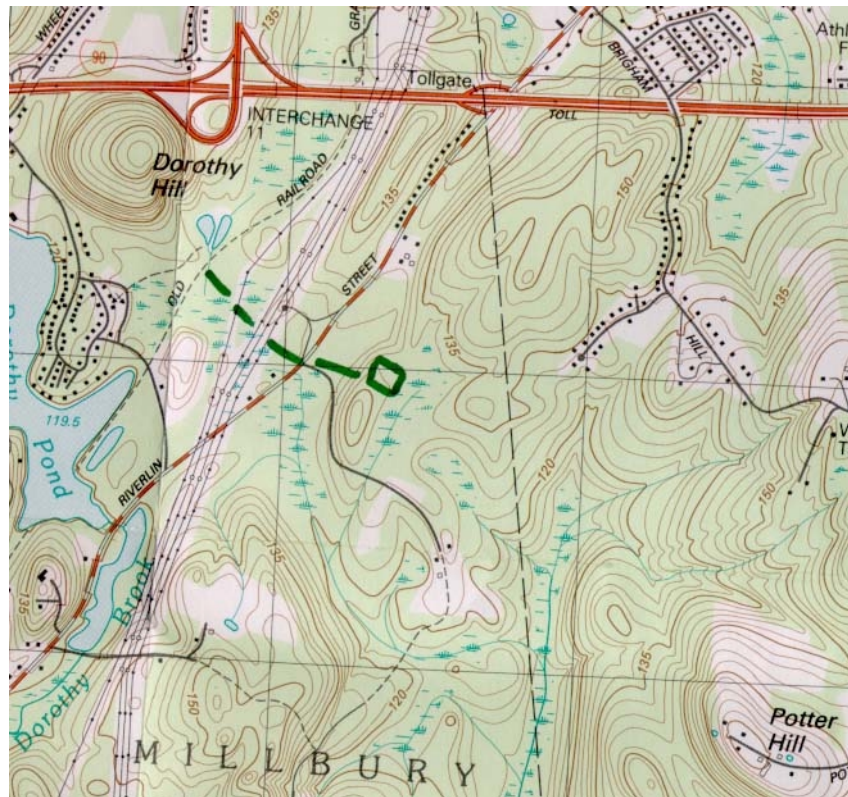


Figure 12. The Dearing Estate trail project will improve the parking facility and connect the Estate property to the Millbury Branch Rail Trail.

Grafton, Upton & Hopedale (map 2)

Grafton, MA is approximately 23.3 square miles (14,933Ac) in size, of which 4,634.34 acres (224 parcels) or 32% is open space. This percentage is the highest of any Blackstone Valley municipality (figure 13).



Figure 13 Grafton Town

Despite the increased development pressure, Grafton has many opportunities to connect their open space parcels.

In 2001 the Town of Grafton formalized its desire to promote recreation by creating a Trails Committee. By doing so, the town of Grafton has taken a proactive approach to recreational development, specifically the development of trails and greenways. Currently, the Grafton Trails Committee is involved with investigating the feasibility and suitability of developing the former Grafton & Upton Railroad line into a recreational amenity for the town, as well as supporting other trail development efforts in Grafton. In addition, the committee's assistance and support of the Blackstone River Bikeway project has been extremely valuable in moving the bikeway forward.

The neighboring towns of **Upton** and **Hopedale, MA** also have tremendous potential for trail development. These two towns have a combined 5,034 acres of open space. A large percentage of that open space is the Upton State Forest. Proposed trails, such as the Grafton & Upton Rail Trail (map 2) and the connecting Lookout Rock Trail (map 2) will take users from the Town Center of Grafton via Upton to the Hopedale Town Common and also to the River Bend Farm Visitor Center at the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park.

Vision

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor recommends and supports the development of the following trails that are, in whole or in part, within Grafton, Upton & Hopedale, MA (map 2)

5. Grafton Loop Trail
6. Grafton and Upton Rail Trail
7. Lookout Rock-G&U Rail Trail Connector (map 2 & 3)
 - Blackstone River Bikeway (page 20)

5. Grafton Loop Trail (map 2)

The Grafton Loop Trail (figure 14) is a 20+ mile trail which would ultimately connect a number of existing short disjointed trails. The Grafton Loop Trail would connect seven existing trails and all the regions of Grafton.



Figure 14 View of Mt. Wachusett from the Grafton Loop Trail.

The trail would connect several significant recreational properties such as: The Dearing Estate, Blackstone River Bikeway, Upton State Forest, and Grafton Land Trust parcels (map 2).

6. Grafton & Upton Rail Trail (map 2)

Along its 15.5 mile course, the Grafton & Upton railway runs for approximately nine miles (figure 15) within Grafton, MA. As it travels through the town center it turns southeast toward Upton, MA. As a whole, the former Grafton & Upton Railroad (G&U) extended from North Grafton, MA to Milford, MA. The rail line was constructed in 1874 and was used for freight and passenger service. The railroad had some type of service running until 1987, although a short portion of the line near North Grafton had service until 1993.

The Grafton and Upton Railroad was operated and controlled by the Draper family, the original owners for almost 80 years. In 1967 the railroad was acquired by Rockwell International, then later acquired by Torco of Worcester, MA.

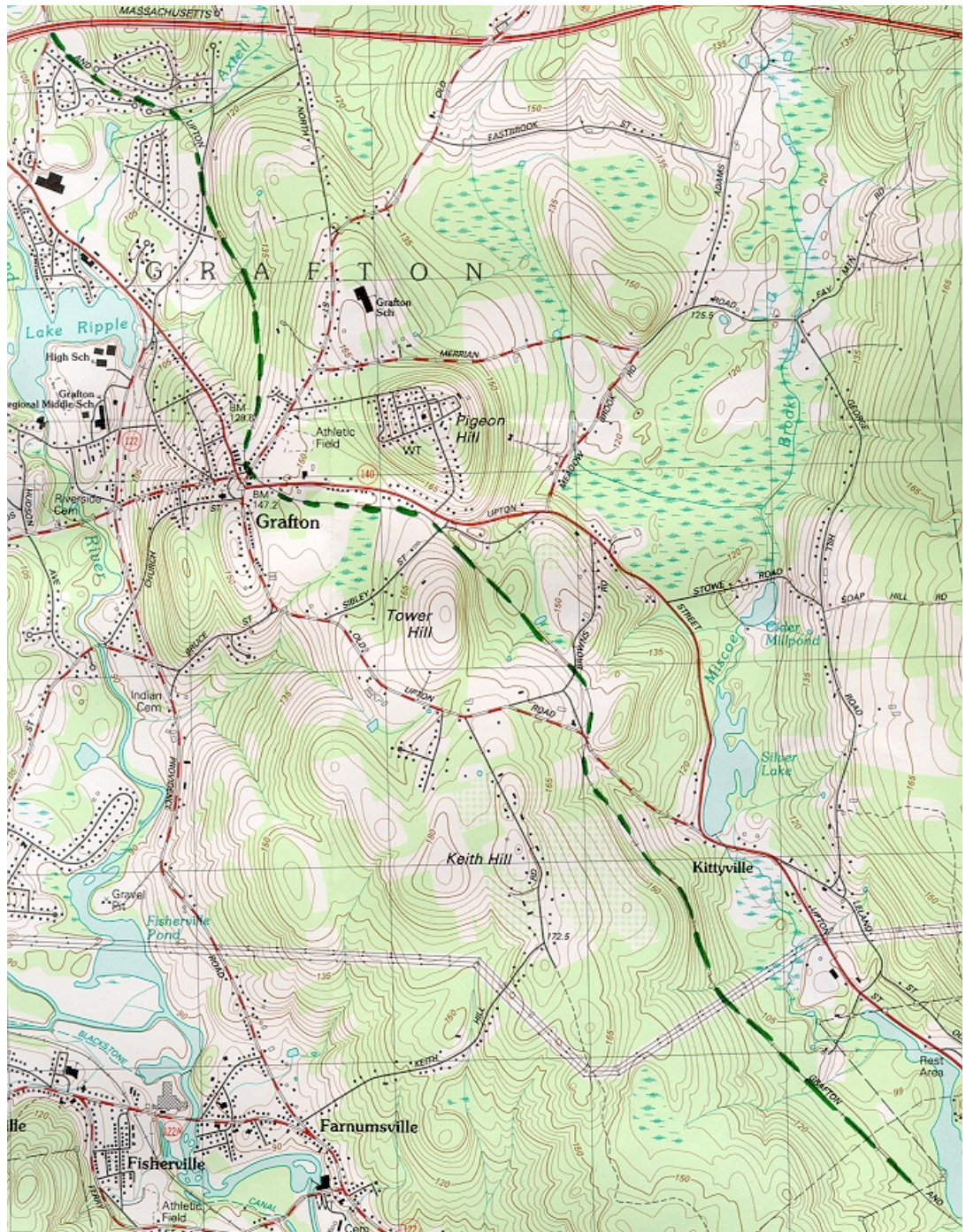


Figure 15 Illustration of the Grafton section of the Grafton & Upton Rail Trail.

The G&U railroad right-of-way, when transformed into a multiple-use recreational facility, will serve as the backbone of Grafton's trail system. The vision for the G&U consists of a Class I bikeway with a small "green" separation from a class I stone dust multiple-use path.

This right-of-way would connect the citizens of North Grafton, Grafton, Upton, Hopedale and Milford to each other. It would connect numerous open space parcels that border the right-of-way and provide the citizens of these towns a quality recreational resource.

7. Lookout Rock – G&U Rail Trail Connector (map 2 & 3)

This trail is approximately 4 miles long. The trail connects the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park with the Upton State Forest, the Army Corps of Engineer's West Hill Dam recreation site and the Grafton & Upton Rail Trail.

This former Native American trail used by the Nipmuc tribe crosses forested land, wetland areas and the West river (figure 16).

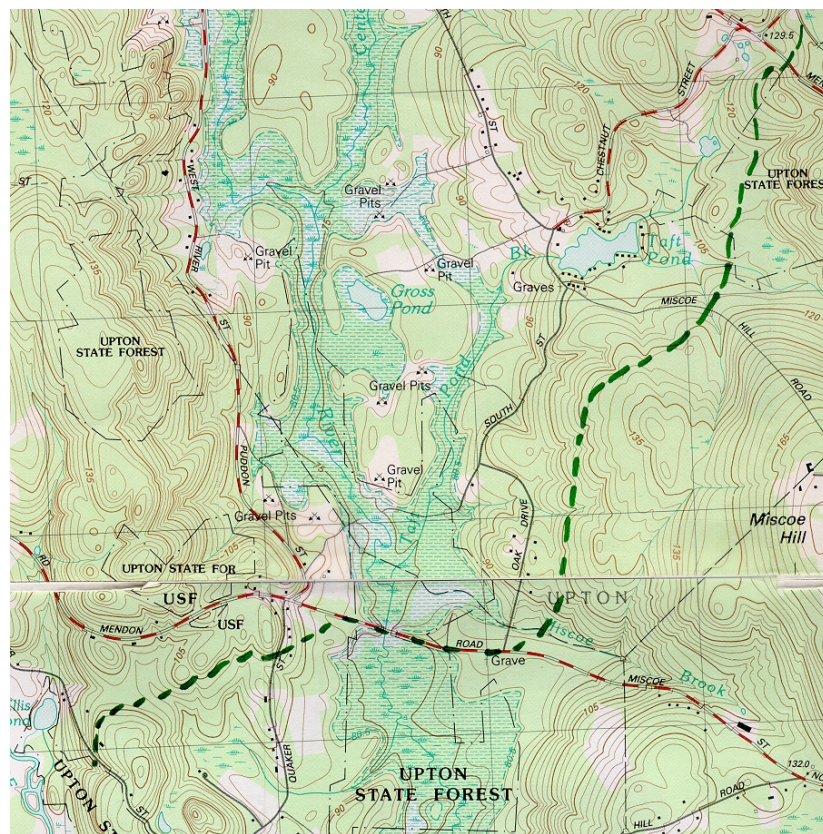


Figure 16 Proposed layout of the Lookout Rock – G&U Rail Trail Connector.

Sutton, Northbridge, Douglas, Uxbridge (map 3)

Sutton, MA is approximately 21,715 acres in size with 2,468 acres of open space. Currently some on and off-road trails exist but very few formal trails have been developed. The town of Sutton is a desirable town in which to live, evidenced by the number of single family homes being constructed. In 1990 the town issued 16 building permits for single family homes compared to 101 permits that were issued in 1999. Despite the increased residential development the town still has numerous opportunities to connect major focal points via a trail network.

The town of Sutton will be celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2004. The “Sutton 300” committee has been formed to promote and organize this event. As part of the Sutton 300 committee a recreation subcommittee was formed to look into potential recreational projects within Sutton. This group continues to work hard in identifying and promoting the development of recreational opportunities for the citizens of Sutton.

Northbridge, MA is approximately 11,558 acres in size with 1,953 acres of open space. Many miles of trail exist within Northbridge, both formal and informal. Numerous trails can be found in the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park.

Douglas, MA is approximately 24,134 acres in size with 6,295 acres of open space. Many miles of trail exist within Douglas, both formal and informal. The majority are found in the 5,000+ acres Douglas State Forest.

Uxbridge, MA is approximately 19,443 acres in size with 3,974 acres of open space. Many trails currently exist within the town with the majority being located on State Park land.

The Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) is continuing to move forward on a portion of the Blackstone River Bikeway within Uxbridge. To date, MHD has reached 25% design on a three mile segment of the bikeway within Uxbridge (page 20).

Vision

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor recommends and supports the development of the following trails that are, in whole or in part, within Sutton, Northbridge, Douglas and Uxbridge, MA (map 3):

10. Lake Manchaug Greenway and Wildlife Corridor
11. Mumford River Walk Extension
12. Grand Trunk Rail Trail
17. Drumlin Trail
 - Blackstone River Bikeway (page 20)

10. Lake Manchaug Greenway and Wildlife Corridor (map 3)

In an attempt to connect the Douglas State Forest to the Sutton State Forest and Purgatory Chasm State Reservation, an ambitious group of citizens from throughout the Blackstone River Valley have envisioned the Lake Manchaug Greenway and Wildlife Corridor. This project is approximately six miles long and varies in width. To date, several private landowners have donated hundreds of acres to the project. As land is acquired, trails will be developed.

This Greenway and Wildlife Corridor project offers more than recreation, it offers watershed protection for Lake Manchaug and its tributaries, which are significant tributaries to the Mumford River (one of the Blackstone's main tributaries). In addition, this corridor offers additional protection and recreational connections to the town owned *Waters Farm* property, which is on the National Historic Register. Wildlife habitat protection also is a major benefit of the envisioned corridor.

Using existing and proposed trails, this Greenway and Wildlife Corridor will contain ample public access for walking and hiking, picnicking and other forms of passive recreation. As this greenway develops, trailhead kiosks and other trail signage will be developed.

After being formally announced in April of 1999, the citizens promoting this greenway project have

- *received a MA DEM Greenways Grant
- *received its first land donation of 6.5 acres in April of 2001
- *received a 450 acres land donation in June of 2001

11. Mumford River Walk Extension (map 3)

The Mumford River Walk is a linear greenway on the south side of Linwood Avenue adjacent to the Mumford River in Whitinsville, MA. The town-owned eleven acre site is centrally located in the downtown region and can be easily accessed by the high school, middle school, Whitinsville Christian School, primary school and the kindergarten center.

The River Walk area has significant historical aspects, one of which is the Linwood Mill and the former Mill owners mansion located at the end of Linwood pond.

The Mumford River Walk (figure 17) was first envisioned in the early 1990's and in 1995 the Town Selectman appointed a six-member panel to lead the project. To date, the project has constructed a 1.0 mile trail along the mumford river and the project is moving into its next phase.



Figure 17 Start of the Mumford River Walk, just across from the Northbridge High School, Whitinsville, MA.

From the Linwood pond, the vision is to connect the River Walk to the east, with the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park. This would connect the citizens of Whitinsville to not only the extensive trail system within the State Park but also to the Blackstone River Bikeway (figure 18).

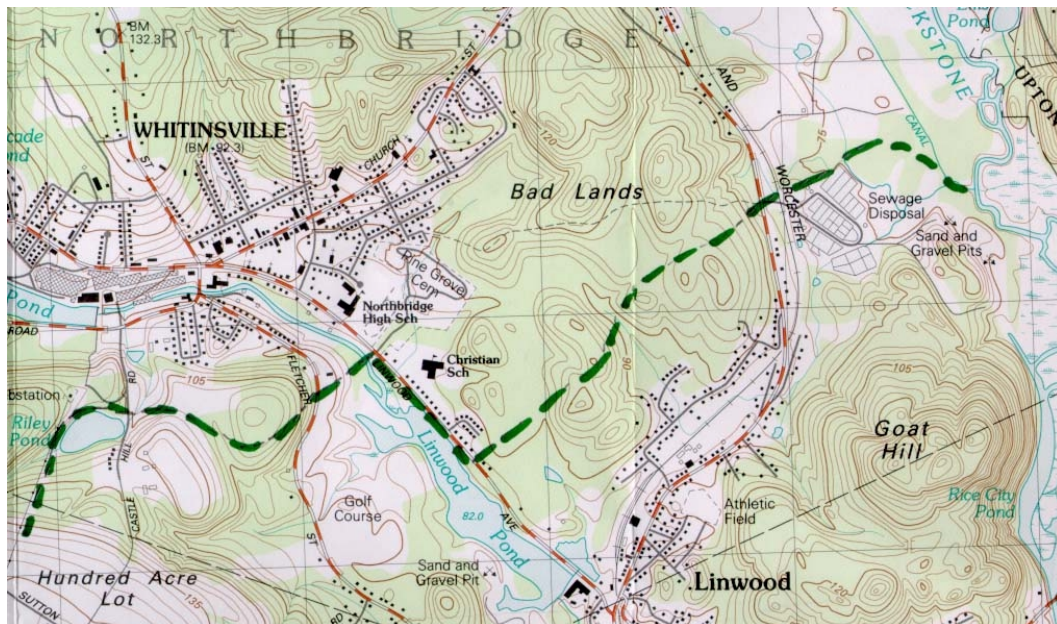


Figure 18 Location of the Mumford River Walk and its extension to the Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge.

To the west, the River Walk extension would cross the Mumford river utilizing existing concrete abutments located just across Linwood Avenue from the High School. Once across the river, the greenway heads west and connects to town property near Castle Hill Rd.

12. Grand Trunk Rail Trail (map 3)

The Grand Trunk Railroad through the Blackstone Valley was never completed. Incorporated as the Southern New England Trunkline, land acquisitions between Brimfield, MA and Rhode Island took place around 1912. Initial construction consisted of grading and berm construction along with bridge abutment installation, many dated 1914. However, the project ceased before any rail was laid out; by 1918 assets were sold off to repay investors. Today there is about 12 miles of this line that closely parallels the MA DEM owned SNETT from Blackstone through Millville, Uxbridge and Douglas. An opportunity for significant open space acquisition and loop-trail development exists along these two rail lines.

As outlined in the Massachusetts statewide greenway vision “Commonwealth Connections”, both the Commonwealth and the National Heritage Corridor envision the Grand Trunk right-of-way being developed into a recreational gem for the state and the communities it passes through. Ultimately, the Grand Trunk line is envisioned to extend north and make a connection to the 140-mile long Mass Central Rail Trail, a rails-to-trails project connecting Boston, MA to Northhampton, MA.

17. Drumlin Trail (map 3)

Starting on Rt. 122 in Uxbridge, the Drumlin Trail heads North for approximately 3 miles, connecting to Rt. 16 and the Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park. Users of this trail will pass through Division of Fisheries and Wildlife property with remnants of Drumlin Mounds and remnants of an old canal.

Mendon, Blackstone, Millville (map 4)

Mendon, Blackstone and Millville, MA comprise an area covering 35 square miles. This region encompasses numerous historic and recreational resources. Together, these three towns have 3,873 acres of open space, which includes State Park land, Town Forest, Fish & Wildlife property and the Southern New England Trunkline Trail.

Few formal trails exist in this region, however, the Mendon Open Space Committee along with other trail groups such as the Bay State Trail Riders Association are continually striving to develop new trails as well as maintain existing trails.

The existing trails along with the proposed trails will connect visitors and community members to resources such as the Daniels Farm, Millville Lock, Chestnut Hill Meeting House, Triad Bridge, Boys and Girls Club and Downtown Millville.

Vision

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor recommends and supports the development of the following trails that are, in whole or in part, within Mendon, Blackstone and Millville, MA (map 4):

18. Daniels Farm Trail
 - Blackstone River Bikeway (page 20)

18. Daniels Farm Trail (map 4)

After 250 years of ownership, the Daniels family, in an effort to preserve their farm as open space, transferred ownership of their 280-acre farm in Blackstone, MA to the Metacomet Land Trust in 1998. This property borders, and is within close proximity to other protected lands, which allows for connecting these open space parcels with a trail network.

The Daniels Farm trail is approximately 8 miles in length and connects numerous protected land parcels including those owned by the State Division of Fish and Wildlife, Mendon Town Forest and Blackstone Town land. The Daniels Farm trail ultimately connects to the Drumlin Trail (trail #17, map 4) which connects to the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park and the Blackstone River Bikeway.

Burrillville, North Smithfield, Glocester, Smithfield (map 5)

Burrillville, North Smithfield, Glocester and Smithfield, RI make up the northwestern most part of the state encompassing 161 square miles with a combined 40 square miles of open space. The majority of this open space is in the form of state wildlife management areas owned by the RI Department of Environmental Management.

In keeping with their open space / comprehensive plans, these towns are currently considering a various trail/bicycle plans including designating some on-road bicycle routes as well as looking at the feasibility of developing abandoned railroad corridors as bikeways.

In North Smithfield, Smithfield and Burrillville the towns have joined together with RIDOT to study the feasibility of transforming their shared rail corridor into a bicycle/pedestrian facility.

Vision

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor recommends and supports the development of the following trails that are, in whole or in part, within Burrillville, North Smithfield, Glocester and Smithfield, RI (map 5):

13. Woonasquatucket River Bikeway / Northwest Bicycle Project
14. Louisquisett Trolley Line Trail
 - Blackstone River Bikeway (page 20)

13. Woonasquatucket River Bikeway / Northwest Bicycle Project (map 5)

The Woonasquatucket River Greenway Project is a part of the National Park Service's (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, having been adopted by the NPS in January 1994. Currently, the RI Department of Transportation is developing a 4.4 mile greenway and bicycle/pedestrian path, from the Johnston/Providence border, to Waterplace Park in downtown Providence. However, ultimately this project is envisioned to extend to the RI/MA state line, connecting the towns of Providence, Johnston, Smithfield, North Smithfield, Glocester and Burrillville.

This project is part of the proposed 500 miles of natural corridor greenways, 200 miles of bikeways, 93,000 acres of greenspace resource areas and 87,000 acres of currently protected open space, under the planned State Greenspace and Greenway System for Rhode Island

The Woonasquatucket River Bikeway Project is a catalyst for renewal along the Woonasquatucket River in Providence. This linear park will revitalize a major hidden natural resource, the Woonasquatucket River. This bicycle/pedestrian path will link several recreational areas, open spaces, destination sites, and will ultimately connect downtown Providence to the RI/MA state line in Burrillville, RI.

The Greenway and restored parks will provide needed urban recreation areas, address local transportation needs, and promote restoration of abandoned industrial sites and impaired riverbank habitats.

14. Louisquisett Trolley Line Trail (map 5)

Another opportunity for creating a rail trail, is the abandoned Providence to Burrillville Streetcar line. This fifteen mile trolley line, built c. 1900, not only connected the people of Burrillville with the sites and shopping of Providence, it also allowed city residents access to the parks and forests of Burrillville. The track was abandoned c. 1930 (figure 19). One segment of this line is currently part of the Lime Rock Preserve, a Nature Conservancy site in Lincoln, RI. RI DOT owns the right of way to a two-mile segment of the line in North Smithfield, running from Landmark Hospital to the RI Sports Complex along Rt. 146. The state is entertaining the idea of developing this segment into some type of recreational facility.



Figure 19 Bridge abutments which allowed trolley line to pass over this old town road.

Woonsocket, Cumberland, Lincoln, Central Falls, Pawtucket (map 6)

Woonsocket, RI has 323 acres of open space and many projects involving those acres, are currently underway. The Blackstone River Bikeway will eventually make its way through downtown Woonsocket via River Island Park and Market Square. This route will connect visitors to two of the City's most beautiful parks, River Island and Cold Spring. In addition, the Bikeway will take residents past the Museum of Work and Culture, Main Street and the public library. Another project that is ongoing in Woonsocket is the Downtown Riverfront Revitalization Project. This project involves redesigning and renovating numerous historic mill structures that still remain and add character to the City. The City is undergoing significant changes and will be a destination for visitors to Rhode Island.

Cumberland, RI is approximately 17,147 acres in size with 4,488 acres being open space. Many trails exist within the town including the North Cumberland Middle School, Monestary, Blackstone River Bikeway and Diamond Hill Municipal Park. Many additional trail connections are possible which would link resources and town amenities not currently connected to one another.

Lincoln, RI is approximately 11,665 acres in size with 4,799 acres of open space, which includes Lincoln Woods State Park. This Park has many miles of trail both paved and unpaved. With the recent opening of the Blackstone Gateway Park along Great Road the trail system within Lincoln Woods State Park has now been connected via the Lincoln Greenway to Chase Farm and the many other historical resources found along Great Road.

Central Falls, RI is the smallest municipality in the Blackstone Valley, however, it holds some of the more precious historic resources within the Valley. The Blackstone River Bikeway connects community members to the historic Central Falls Landing site where recently, RIDOT has constructed a new dock with public access to the Blackstone River. Valley Falls Park is another great historic resource in the City directly across from the Central Falls landing site. This park tells the story of water power in the industrial age of America. These resources are a few that can be experienced in the smallest Blackstone Valley municipality of Central Falls, RI.

Pawtucket, RI is an urban community that is quite developed, yet has numerous municipal parks and approximately 427 acres of open space. There are a few small trails within Slater Memorial Park but few others exist. The Blackstone River Bikeway is currently at the 10% design stage within Pawtucket and will serve as a premier recreational resource once complete.

Vision

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor recommends and supports the development of the following trails that are, in whole or in part, within Woonsocket, Cumberland, Lincoln, Central Falls and Pawtucket, RI (map 6):

15. Blackstone River Bikeway / I-295 Connector
16. Warner Trail Extension
 - Blackstone River Bikeway (page 20)

15. Blackstone River Bikeway / I-295 Connector (map 6)

Along I-295 North and South there are “rest areas” which are currently under utilized. The RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) is currently developing plans for re-use of the Northbound side. Plans call for a 0.5 mile trail connection from the rest area to the existing Blackstone River Bikeway (figure 20). The RIDOT is currently at the 90% design stage and construction is scheduled to begin in the next 12 months.

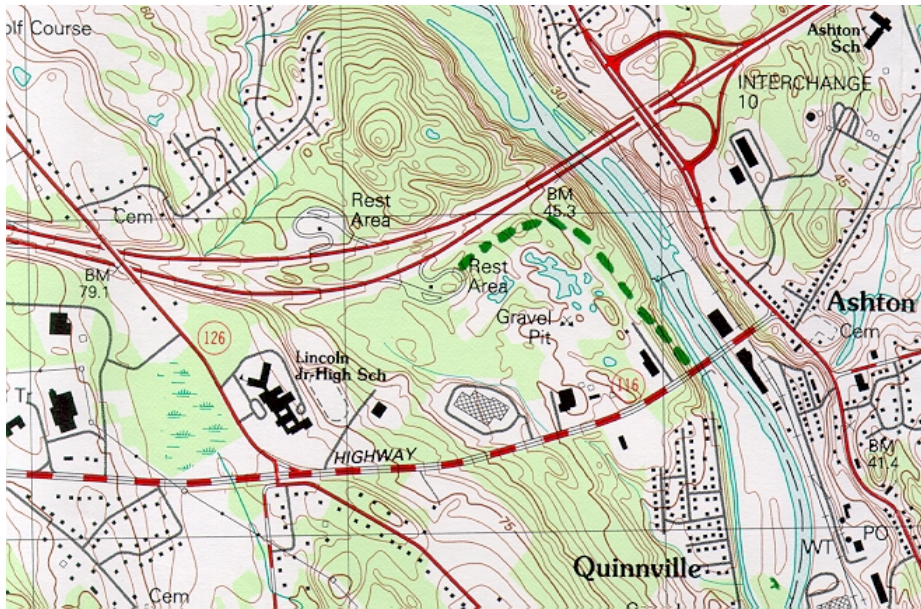


Figure 20 Approximate location of I-295 N trail connection to the Blackstone River Bikeway.

16. Warner Trail Extension (map 6)

Beginning at the rail station in Canton, MA the Warner trail extends for approximately 30 miles to Diamond Hill Municipal Park in Cumberland, RI. This trail was first envisioned by Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) member Charles H. Warner prior to WW II. This trail connects numerous public parcels including town forests, Audubon Society land and other state lands.

The proposed extension of the Warner trail would continue the trail for two miles westward toward the Blackstone River, ultimately connecting to the existing Blackstone River Bikeway (figure 21).

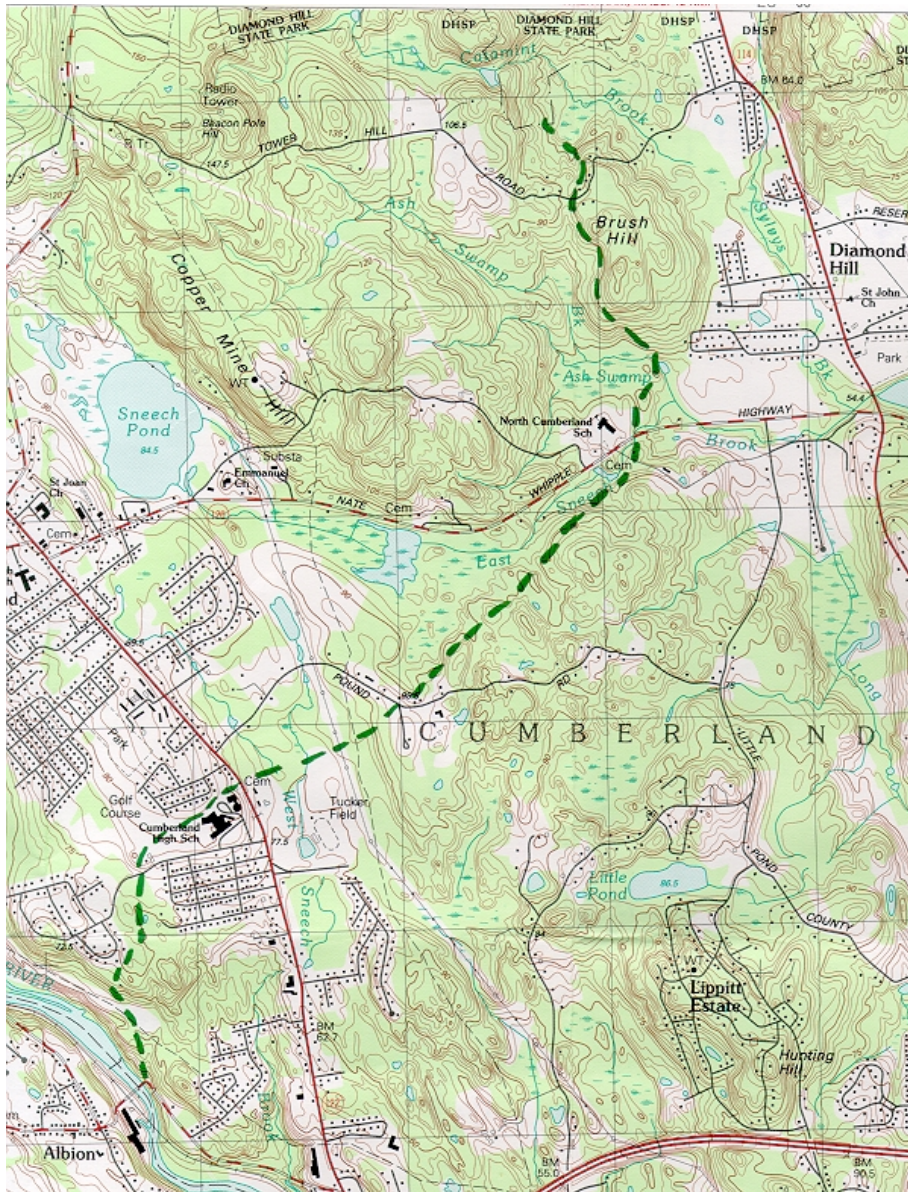


Figure 21 Location of proposed Warner Trail Extension.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Blackstone River Bikeway

- Recommendation #1: The Corridor Commission should continue to be actively involved in the MHD Bikeway Taskforce.
- Recommendation #2: Affected communities should become or continue to be actively involved in supporting the bikeway project.
- Recommendation #3: All stakeholders involved should continue to involve and solicit assistance from, their elected local, state and federal officials.

Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT)

- Recommendation #1: Massachusetts DEM and the Connecticut DEP should coordinate with the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor to create a development / management plan for the SNETT.
- Recommendation #2: Bay State Trail Riders Association should broaden their maintenance support to MA DEM.

Recommendations For Proposed Trails & Greenways

Table 5 List of trail/greenway projects with corresponding recommendation*.

Trail/Greenway Opportunity**	Priority/Sub-region	Major Partners Involved	Recommendation
Trail #			
1. Mid State-Worcester Connector Trail	#9 / North	Leicester, Greater Worcester Land Trust, Worcester Water Authority	The Greater Worcester Land Trust should coordinate the development of an implementation plan.
2. Tetasset-East Side Trail Connector	#6 / North	City of Worcester, Greater Worcester Land Trust	The City of Worcester should develop an action plan for developing this trail.
3. Blackstone Broad Meadow Brook Trail	#2 / North	MA Audubon, City of Worcester, Greater Worcester Land Trust	MA Audubon should coordinate a grant writing campaign to secure the necessary funds to develop this project.
4. Middle River Park & Greenway	#3 / North	Greater Worcester Land Trust, MA Audubon, City of Worcester, Holy Cross College	The City of Worcester/GWLT should continue to develop this project, extending it to Hawden Park
5. Grafton Loop Trail	#4 / North	Town of Grafton, Grafton Land Trust	The Town of Grafton should coordinate the development of a plan to secure the necessary resources to complete this project.
6. Grafton and Upton Rail Trail	#5 / North	Towns of Grafton, Upton & Hopedale & G&U RR, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	The Town of Grafton should coordinate with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to develop an action plan for developing this rail trail project.
7. Lookout Rock-G&U Rail Trail Connector	#2 / Central	MA DEM, Town of Northbridge	The Town of Northbridge should coordinate with MA DEM to connect Lookout Rock to the G&U Rail Trail.
8. Millbury Branch Rail Trail	#7 / North	Town of Millbury, MA EOTC	The Town of Millbury should continue to coordinate the development of this trail with MA EOTC.
9. Dearing Estate Trailhead Access Project	#10 / North	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Town of Millbury	The Town of Millbury should coordinate with the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to develop this project.
10. Lake Manchaug Greenway and Wildlife Corridor	#1 / North	Towns of Douglas & Sutton, MA DEM	The Town of Sutton should continue to take the lead on developing this greenway project.
11. Mumford River Walk Extension	#8 / North	Town of Northbridge, MA DEM	The Town of Northbridge should develop an implementation plan for the River Walk.
12. Grand Trunk Rail Trail	#1 / Central	MA DEM, Towns of Douglas, Uxbridge	The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy should lead in the development of an action plan for developing this trail project.
13. Woonasquatucket River/Northwest Bikeway	#1 / South	Towns of Burrillville, Smithfield, North Smithfield & RI DOT	RI DOT in coordination with the Towns of Burrillville, Smithfield, and North Smithfield should develop an action plan for developing this project.

14. Louisquisset Trolley Line Trail	#2 / South	RI DOT, Town of North Smithfield, City of Woonsocket	Woonsocket and North Smithfield should coordinate with RI DOT in developing a plan to utilize this historic trolley line as a recreational facility.
15. Blackstone River Bikeway/I-295 Connector Trail	#4 / South	RI DOT, Town of Lincoln, RI DEM	RI DOT should continue to lead this project toward completion.
16. Warner Trail Extension	#3 / South	Town of Cumberland, RI DEM, AMC	The Town of Cumberland should coordinate with the Appalachian Mountain Club in extending this trail to the Blackstone River Bikeway.
17. Drumlin Trail	#4/ Central	MA DEM, MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife	The MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife should coordinate the development of this historic trail.
18. Daniels Farm Trail	#3 / Central	Metacomet Land Trust, Towns of Blackstone, Millville and Mendon	The Town of Mendon should coordinate the development of this trail by creating an implementation plan.

* A list of contact names for each trail is located in Appendix B

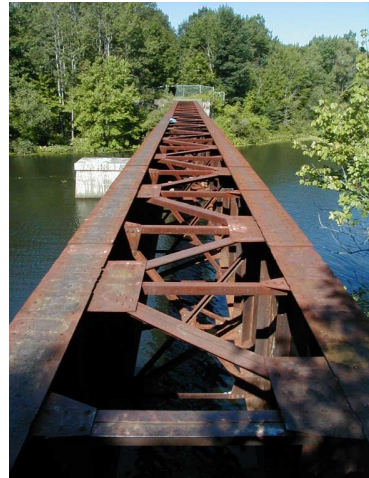
** A list of trail grant opportunities are listed in Appendix C

APPENDIX A

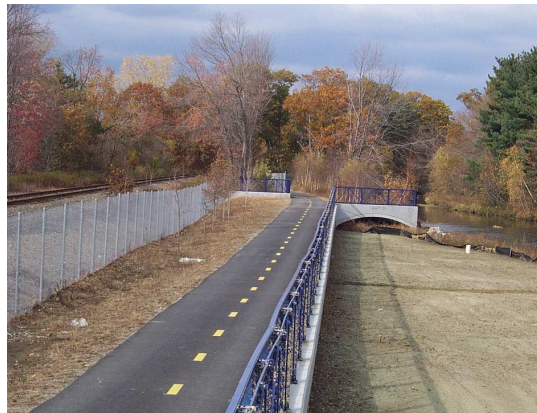
Blackstone River Bikeway Photos



Installing this 160-foot bikeway bridge not only connects two completed bikeway segments but connects the towns of Cumberland and Lincoln, RI.



Re-use of this old railroad bridge in Blackstone, MA, keeps railroad history alive.



This large culvert was installed to channel a small stream into the Blackstone River, Millbury, MA



Bikeway construction along the Blackstone River in Millbury, MA included the planting of River Birch.



Approach to bikeway bridge over Rt. 146 and the Blackstone River, Millbury, MA.



Bridge construction over Rt. 146 and the Blackstone River, Millbury, MA.



Bikeway construction near I-90, Worcester, MA.

APPENDIX B

Proposed Trail / Greenway	Contact Name	Contact Information
1. Mid State – Worcester Connector Trail	Colin Novick	508 795-3838
2. Tetasset – East Side Trail Connector	Colin Novick	508-795-3838
3. Blackstone Broad Meadow Brook Trail	Deb Cary	508-755-8899
4. Middle River Park & Greenway	Steve Bishop	508-799-5500
5. Grafton Loop Trail	Karen Fleming Brooks	kmfb62@aol.com
6. Grafton & Upton Rail Trail	Craig Della Penna	508-755-3300
7. Lookout Rock-G&U Rail Trail Connector	Val Stegemoen	508-278-7604
8. Millbury Branch Rail Trail	Ric Morgan-O’conner	508-541-6224
9. Dearing Estate Trailhead Access Project	Mark Jewell	401 762-0250
10. Lake Manchaug Greenway & Wildlife Corridor	Patricia Nedoroscik	508-865-8722
11. Mumford River Walk Extension	Barbara Gaudette	508-234-6531
12. Grand Trunk Rail Trail	Val Stegemoen	508-278-7604
13. Wanasquatucket River/ Northwest Bikeway	Steve Church	401-222-4203 x4042
14. Louisquissett Trolley Line Trail	Val Stegemoen	508-278-7604
15. Blackstone River Bikeway / I-295 Connector	Steve Church	401-222-4203 x4042
16. Warner Trail Extension	Mark Jewell	401 762-0250
17. Drumlin Trail	Mark Jewell	401 762-0250
18. Daniels Farm Trail	Mark Jewell	401 762-0250
• Blackstone River Bikeway	Mark Jewell	401 762-0250
• Southern New England Trunkline Rail Trail	Danny O’Brien	617-727-9681

APPENDIX C

Grants Offered by:	Name of Grant	Range of Award	Eligibility	For Details Contact	Deadline
Land Trust Alliance, New England Region	Matching Grants	Up to \$5,000	Members of New England Region	Elizabeth Wroblicka (413) 587-0300 ewroblicka@lta.org www.lta.org	August 31
MA Department of Environmental Management	Recreational Trails Grants	\$2,000 to \$50,000	Non-profits municipalities and govn't agencies	Peter Brandenburg (617) 626-1453 peter.brandenburg@state.ma.us	July 31
MA Department of Environmental Management	Greenways & Trails Grants	\$1,000 to \$10,000	Non-profits municipalities and govn't agencies	Jennifer Howard (413) 586-8706 X18 jennifer.howard@state.ma.us www.state.ma.us/dem	Varies
MA Division of Conservation Services	Land & Water Conservation Fund	Up to \$250,000	Non-profits municipalities and govn't agencies	Jennifer Soper (617) 626-1015 jennifer.soper@state.ma.us	June 1
MA Division of Conservation Services	Self-Help Grants	Up to \$250,000	Municipal Conservation Commissions	Jennifer Soper (617) 626-1015 jennifer.soper@state.ma.us	June 1
MA Division of Conservation Services	Urban Self-Help Grants	Up to \$250,000	Any MA City or MA Towns with a pop. of 35,000	Joan Robes (617) 727-1552 ext 1014 www.state.ma.us/envir	June 1
National Park Service RTCA Program	Rivers, Trails & Conservation Technical Asst.	One Year of Technical Assistance	Non-profits municipalities and govn't agencies	Doug Evans (617) 223-5124 douglas_evans@nps.gov	July 1
RI Department of Environmental Management	Materials Only Grants	Up to \$1,500	Recreation groups, municipalities, state agencies	Bob Sutton (401) 222-2776 rsutton@dem.state.ri.us	Sept. – Oct.

APPENDIX D

www.nps.gov/blac
www.cmrpc.org
www.graftonland.org
www.nbatc.org
www.outdoors.org
www.masscentralrailtrail.org
www.nps.gov/appa
www.railtrails.org/newengland
www.wachusettgreenways.org
www.trailsandgreenways.org
www.greenway.org
www.new-england-rail-trails.org
www.obviously.com/trailstorails/statewide.html
www.state.ma.us/dem
www.theatlantic.com/issues/97dec/rails.htm
www.sctrails.net/trails/quotes/quotes.html
www.bikefed.org
www.urbanrivervisions.org

John H. Chafee

BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY

National Heritage Corridor Commission



ONE DEPOT SQUARE, WOONSOCKET, RI 02895, 401 762-0250, WWW.NPS.GOV/BLAC/HTM